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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1898.

IATRO-CHEMISTRY IN 1897.*

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PHINEAS T. BARNUM, the prince of American showmen, discovered early in his successful career that 'the people like to be humbugged,' and he showed great ability in profiting by this weakness; it must be said to his credit, however, that he always honorably gave the people full value for their money. This love of humbug seems to be exceedingly strong in respect to the healing of diseases, and in all ages those who practiced the art have taken advantage of man's credulity; it is not necessary to transcribe the contents of that model of condensation, Thomas Joseph Pettigrew's treatise on superstition in medicine and surgery (London, 1844), to convince my hearers of this truth. In 1897 we expect better things; we are prone to believe that the universal education of the masses, the popularization of the facts and theories of science, fit the people to appreciate at their true value the claims of charlatans. Americans looking reverently to the Old World, where brilliant lights illumine the paths of philosophy and science, hardly expect to find there also the deepest shadows of ignorance and credulity, yet no higher position can be assigned to the modern adaptation of Iatro-Chemistry known as 'Electro-Homeopathy.' Originating in Italy, it has taken root in Germany and flourishes in

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